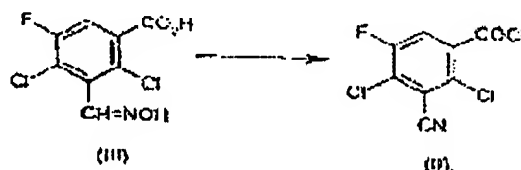


Serial No. 10/749,593

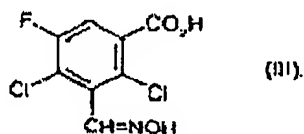
Atty. Docket No. Mo 5346D2/LeA 32 314D2

Amended Claims (Attorney Docket No. Mo 5346D2/LeA 32 314D2)

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously presented) A process for the production of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl chloride comprising the step of converting 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl fluoride to 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl chloride by reaction of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl fluoride with a chlorinating agent, optionally in the presence of a diluent.
4. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-3-cyano-5-fluoro-benzoyl chloride of the formula (II) comprising the step of ~~simultaneously~~ simultaneously eliminating water from 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyiminomethyl-benzoic acid (III) and converting the carboxylic acid function into a carbonyl chloride through use of a chlorinating agent according to the following equation:



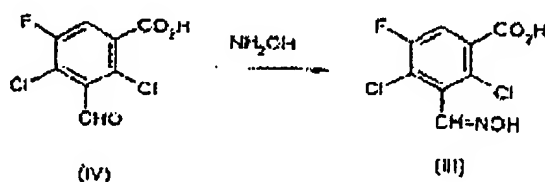
5. (Currently amended) 2,4-Dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyimino-methyl-benzoic acid of the formula (III)



Serial No. 10/749,593

Atty. Docket No. Mo 5346D2/LeA 32 314D2

6. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyiminomethyl-benzoic acid of the formula (III) according to Claim 5, by reaction of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-formyl-benzoic acid of the formula (IV) with hydroxylamine according to the following equation:

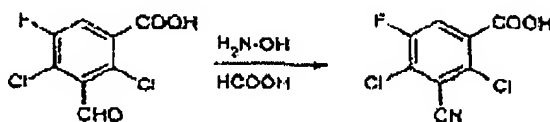


7. (Previously presented) Process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-3-cyano-5-fluoro-benzoic acid
- a) by elimination of water from 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyiminomethyl-benzoic acid of the formula (III) according to the following equation



or

- b) by reaction of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-formyl-benzoic acid of the formula (IV) with hydroxylamine in the presence of formic acid according to the following equation

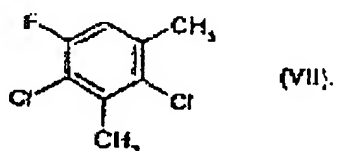


8. (Cancelled).

Serial No. 10/749,593

Atty. Docket No. Mo 5346D2/LeA 32 314D2

9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently amended) 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethylbenzene of the formula (VII)



13. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethylbenzene of the formula (VII) according to Claim 12 by ring chlorination of 5-fluoro-1,3-xylene (VIII) to give 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethylbenzene (VII) using chlorine gas, optionally in a diluent and in the presence of a Friedel-Crafts catalyst according to the following equation:

